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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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DUP NEWS

Latest News:

SPRATT WELCOMES VICTIMS COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENT

Jimmy Spratt, DUP Assembly Member for South Belfast, has welcomed the announcement by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister that progress is being made in the appointment of a Victims Commissioner. Commenting Mr Spratt said,

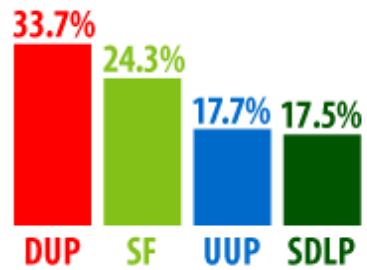


"The DUP is committed to ensuring the needs of victims are addressed in Northern Ireland. For too long victims and their needs were ignored, whilst funding was disproportionately directed to ex-prisoner organisations. Victims have been forced to endure second class status while terrorists have been lauded and applauded. It was the DUP who proposed the creation of a commissioner for victims to redress this matter and I welcome the progress which OFMDFM is making in the appointment of a new commissioner.

I would like to applaud the hard work of the first Commissioner, Bertha McDougall, in

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highlighting many of the needs of victims and putting forward proposals to ensure that victims are treated fairly. The publication of her report shows why the position of a Victims Commissioner is so necessary in Northern Ireland. Her report called for the creation of a UDR Fund and that is long overdue. The UDR deserve parity with both the RUC and Prison Service who each have their own similar funds. It is equally important that civilians who lost their lives as a result of terrorism, gain the recognition and support they undoubtedly deserve.

The needs of victims must be championed and I welcome the news that the appointment of a new commissioner is a priority for the Department. It is important that the appointee is capable of commanding the support of victims and the entire community in Northern Ireland.”

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